



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

INSTALLATIONS AND LOGISTICS

Mr. Lewis E. Spangler
Acting Commissioner
Federal Supply Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D. C. 20406

Dear Mr. Spangler:

The Class VI security File container manufactured by Hillside Metal Products Company continues to be a matter of concern to the Department of Defense. Since receipt of the 4 June 1969 letter from your Acting Assistant Commissioner for Procurement to the Department of the Army regarding this matter, reports of operational deficiencies on this container are still being received from Defense user elements.

To insure that these deficiencies were valid complaints, the Department of the Army conducted extensive laboratory tests of the Hillside Class VI security file container; the results are inclosed for your information. The tests, which were in accordance with procurement specifications, confirm the fact that this container has serious deficiencies. Only two companies are currently qualified by you to manufacture Class VI security containers--Hillside and the Mosler Safe Company. We are currently conducting similar tests of the Mosler container; however, to date we have not received any user complaints on the Mosler product.

Mr. Conrad, Chairman of the Interagency Advisory Committee on Security Equipment, has informed the Department of the Army that the Hillside Metal Products Company has submitted a modification to their Class VI security container which will terminate the use of the "sliding drawer hood". According to Mr. Conrad, the General Services Administration has approved this proposal. Prior to your acceptance of the new Hillside

Class VI model, request that one or two of these units be made available to Defense for test purposes. In view of the past experiences, however, we also request that the current Hillside "sliding drawer hood" model Class VI container, be removed from your "Qualified Products List" as soon as possible. Immediate action will stop additional numbers of this model from entering the supply system.

Since many of the Hillside "sliding drawer hood" model are in use by Defense activities, it is requested that you determine the availability and feasibility of a modification kit which could be made available to current Defense users. When applied, the kit should either eliminate the need of the "sliding drawer hood" or prevent its removal from the cabinet.

The U.S. Army has been engaged in the testing and evaluation of secure containers and locking devices for several years. Should your office have a need for use of these test facilities to assist your program, please let us know.

The Department of Defense is curtailing further procurement of all Class VI security containers from GSA until such time as the new Hillside model is found to be acceptable, and pending receipt of favorable test results of the Mosler Class VI container.

We appreciate your understanding of our concern in these matters.

Enclosure

AMXRE-GSO (27 Jun 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Class 6 Security Cabinets

9 OCT 69

U. S. Army Natick Laboratories, Natick, Mass. 01760

TO: The Adjutant General, ATTN: AGAR-S, Department of the Army,
Washington, D. C. 20315

1. In accordance with para 3 of basic letter tests were performed on a Hillside Metal Products Class 6 Security Cabinet (Model 6-69, Serial No. 16242) to establish compliance to specification AA-F-35Se.

a. As specification AA-F-35Se does not stipulate design criteria, the metal cover design is considered acceptable.

b. The 50,000 cycle test of the drawer and the metal cover was performed simultaneously as specified in paragraph 4.4.4.2 Service Tests. At the 10,000 cycle point the drawer operating force test was conducted and found to be fourteen (14) pounds (specification requirement ten (10) pounds). The cycling test was terminated at this point as per requirements of this paragraph.

c. A drawer was loaded with 80 pounds of paper in accordance with paragraph 4.4.4.1 Rack Test and during the cycling the front edge of the drawer sagged 1/32 inch, causing the drawer to bind each time the drawer was closed.

d. The cabinet was thoroughly inspected to ascertain its compliance to paragraph 3.10 Workmanship and the following deficiencies which would create a safety hazard to operating personnel were noted:

- (1) Sharp edges on the drawer and cabinet structure.
- (2) Sharp edges on weldments.
- (3) The metal cover latch abraded the latch hole and developed jagged metal burrs.

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9 OCT 1955

AMXRE-GSO

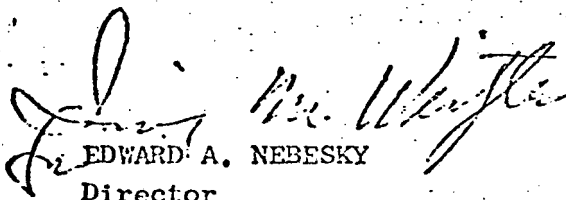
SUBJECT: Class 6 Security Cabinets

e. During the cycling test of the drawer and metal cover it was noted that the metal cover was in a partially open condition when the drawer began its opening cycle prior to the depressing of the latch. This occurred five (5) times during the first 100 cycles. It is not known to what degree a defect of this nature may affect the security test requirements as specified in paragraph 4.4.4.7.1 and 4.4.4.7.2 Surreptitious and Forced Entry.

2. Due to the failure of this cabinet to meet the requirements of specification AA-F-358e it is concluded that this cabinet is considered an inferior item and not capable of performing its intended mission.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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EDWARD A. NEBESKY

Director

General Equipment & Packaging Laboratory